

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MARR, GW

SUBJECT: FRG GOVERNMENT DECLARATION RE NATO MINISTERIAL

1. FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER PRESENTED THE GOVERNMENT'S DECLARATION REGARDING LAST WEEK'S NATO MINISTERIAL MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS TO THE BUNDESTAG ON DECEMBER 19. GENSCHER'S REMARKS WERE RELATIVELY BRIEF. HE WARNED AGAINST THE DANGEROUS EFFECTS OF THE PRESENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES ON THE DEFENSE READINESS OF THE WESTERN ALLIANCE, POINTING OUT THAT THESE PROBLEMS MUST ALSO BE VIEWED AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE NEW AND THREATENING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE SAID THE BEST DEFENSE POLICY WOULD BE INEFFECTUAL IF, IN ANY MEMBER COUNTRY, THE LOSS OF ECONOMIC STABILITY WERE TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE LOSS OF POLITICAL STABILITY. IN GENSCHER'S VIEW THE RESOLUTION OF INTERNAL POLITICAL

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QUESTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL NATO STATES SHOULD NOT BE AT

THE COST OF MUTUAL SECURITY.

2. GENSCHER BELIEVES IT IS THE SPECIFIC TASK OF THE FRG TO COOPERATE IN THE MAINTENANCE OF AN EFFECTIVE CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE NATO TRIAD. HOWEVER, THE MAINTENANCE OF THE CONVENTIONAL DETERRENT IMPLIES THAT THE MEMBER STATES ARE ECONOMICALLY STABLE, EUROPEAN LEADERS MUST INSTILL IN THEIR PEOPLES THE POLITICAL WILL TO ACCEPT BURDENS FOR THE JOINT DEFENSE.

3. IN REFERRING TO THE VLADIVOSTOK NUCLEAR ACCORDS, GENSCHER WELCOMED THE FACT THAT THE US-USSR TALKS HAVE PRESENTED "CHANCES" FOR A FURTHER LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE WEAPONS. HOWEVER, THE EUROPEAN ALLIES MUST NOT NEGLECT THEIR CONVENTIONAL DEFENSES LEST THE PROMISE OF VLADIVOSTOK BE NEGATED AND THE SUCCESS OF DETENTE THREATENED.

4. IN REFERRING TO THE QUADRIPARTITE DINNER IN BRUSSELS, GENSCHER STATED THAT HE HAD REPORTED TO HIS FELLOW FOUR POWER MINISTERS REGARDING THE SITUATION IN BERLIN. HE SAID THERE WAS UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT THAT THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT BE UPHELD. GENSCHER STRESSED THE CONNECTION BETWEEN BERLIN AND THE PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER DETENTE IN EUROPE. THE FOREIGN MINISTER CLOSED HIS STATEMENT ON AN UPBEAT NOTE, VOICING THE BELIEF THAT THE COMMON PROBLEMS IN NATO CAN BE SOLVED COLLECTIVELY. CASH

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